

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MUSCAT 00032 081114Z

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 INR-07 NSC-05 DODE-00

CIAE-00 NSCE-00 RSC-01 /040 W
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P 080956Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 758

C O N F I D E N T I A L MUSCAT 032

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, MU

SUBJECT: REQUEST TO RAISE OPIC AGREEMENT WITH SULTAN QABOOS

REF: MUSCAT 903

1. FOREIGN MINISTRY'S VAGUELY WORDED REPLY TO OUR NOTE CONCERNING DRAFT INVESTMENT INCENTIVE AGREEMENT PROPOSES FORMATION OF JOINT COMMITTEE OF OMANI, U.S. REPRESENTATIVES TO DISCUSS PROPOSED AGREEMENT. MEETING WITH MFA DIRECTOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS SALIM AL-GHAYLANI DISCLOSED THAT MFA UNDERSECRETARY YUSUF AL-ALAWI FEELS SUCH A COMMITTEE NECESSARY TO ARRIVE AT AN AGREEMENT, QUICKER THAN THROUGH EXTENDED EXCHANGE OF NOTES. HE SUGGESTED USG SHOULD DECIDE ON OUR REPRESENTATIVES AND WHETHER MEETINGS SHOULD TAKE PLACE IN WASHINGTON OR MUSCAT. GHAYLANI DENIED THERE WAS ANY PROBLEM WITH PRINCIPLE OF AGREEMENT.

2. EMBASSY COMMENT: MFA RESPONSE LIKELY CONSTITUTES DELAYING TACTIC FOR REASONS WE HAVE YET TO ELICIT, OR EVINCES CONTINUING MISUNDERSTANDING (WHICH OMANIS UNWILLING TO ADMIT) ABOUT WHAT WE ARE ASKING THEM TO SIGN. IN EITHER CASE, EMBASSY RECOMMENDS MATTER BE DISCUSSED DIRECTLY WITH SULTAN DURING HIS U.S. VISIT.
ZWEIFEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENTS, CHIEF OF STATE VISITS, BRIEFING MATERIALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: buchant0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MUSCAT00032
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750007-0493
From: MUSCAT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750169/aaaaciyn.tel
Line Count: 51
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 1
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 MUSCAT 903
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchant0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 AUG 2003 by ellisoob>; APPROVED <03 DEC 2003 by buchant0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REQUEST TO RAISE OPIC AGREEMENT WITH SULTAN QABOOS
TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, MU, OPIC, (QABUS, SULTAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006